

Anonymi Foundation Summary

1. Why the PMA Model Suits the Anonymi Foundation

Why the PMA Model Suits the Anonymi Foundation

The Anonymi Foundation exists to carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers, not through power or policy, but through spiritual principles, mutual service, and group conscience. The Private Membership Association (PMA) legal structure is uniquely suited to preserve and protect that mission because it reflects and respects our core values rooted in the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

1. Spiritual Autonomy over Legal Conformity

"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole." – Tradition Four

The PMA framework allows us to operate under common law, outside of government interference or regulatory burdens. Just as each Home Group is autonomous, so too is the Anonymi Foundation. We are not incorporated, do not operate as a nonprofit, and do not seek tax exempt status because our primary purpose is spiritual, not commercial.

This legal independence mirrors our spiritual autonomy, allowing us to be guided solely by group conscience, not external authorities.

2. No Professionalism No Profiteering

"NA is a nonprofessional fellowship. Our primary purpose is to stay clean and help other addicts to achieve recovery." – Tradition Eight

The PMA model supports the nonprofessional nature of our service. It gives us space to employ special workers if needed (for example, printing or administration), without turning our fellowship into a paid profession or commodifying the message. This ensures that service remains spiritual not transactional, protecting the purity of the message and the humility of those who carry it.

3. Unity Without Central Control

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience." – Tradition Two

The PMA does not impose governance it enables service based structure. It legally shelters our Home Group centered service model, where the Fellowship Service Conference exists to receive guidance from the Home Groups, not dictate to them. Just as our leadership is

expressed through trusted servants, not authorities, the PMA framework protects that structure from being coopted or bureaucratized.

4. No Outside Affiliations or Funding

"Every NA group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions." – Tradition Seven

The PMA structure allows us to explicitly reject government grants, corporate donations, and outside influence. We are funded by our own Home Groups never by external entities. This safeguards our spiritual integrity and ensures that we remain accountable only to each other and to the principles we serve.

5. Focus on the Message Not the Media

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion." – Tradition Eleven

Unlike incorporated nonprofits which often rely on marketing and public branding, the PMA lets us remain low profile, spiritually grounded, and inwardly focused. It protects our right to operate privately without public scrutiny, while still enabling us to steward literature, trademarks, and archives on behalf of the fellowship not for its control but for its protection.

6. Legal Stewardship Without Ownership

The PMA gives us a legal mechanism to hold copyrights and trademarks not as property but as spiritual trust with accountability to the Home Groups. It allows the Foundation to act as a guardian not a ruler of our shared resources and identity.

Conclusion A Legal Form that Honors a Spiritual Fellowship

The Private Membership Association is not just a legal shelter it is a spiritual reflection of our fellowship's conscience. It provides the freedom, protection, and privacy needed to ensure that the message remains clear, the groups remain free, and the structure remains humble.

By choosing to form the Anonymi Foundation as a PMA, we are walking in alignment with the Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous preserving our autonomy, safeguarding our spiritual focus, and ensuring that our collective conscience not courts, corporations, or cash is our ultimate authority.

2. Anonymi Foundation Bylaws

Bylaws of the Anonymi Foundation

Preamble

The Anonymi Foundation is a Private Membership Association (PMA) organized for the spiritual purpose of carrying the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. These bylaws are informed by the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous and are intended to preserve the spiritual integrity, autonomy, and group conscience of the fellowship.

Article I: Name and Legal Structure

- 1.1 The name of this Private Membership Association shall be Anonymi Foundation.
- 1.2 The Anonymi Foundation is set up by the Home Groups to serve the Home Groups.
- 1.3 It is established under common law principles as a Private Membership Association and shall remain private and unincorporated.

Article II: Purpose and Membership

- 2.1 The primary purpose of the Anonymi Foundation is to provide support, guidance, and a spiritual structure for Home Groups whose members seek freedom from active addiction.
- 2.2 The members of the Anonymi Foundation are the Home Groups who align themselves with the Twelve Traditions and express a desire to participate in this spiritual structure.
- 2.3 Individual addicts are members of their Home Groups. The Anonymi Foundation recognizes Home Groups as autonomous and self-governing.

Article III: Autonomy and Unity

- 3.1 The Anonymi Foundation shall take no action that infringes on the autonomy of any Home Group.

Article IV: Structure and Governance

- 4.1 The Anonymi Foundation uses the annual Fellowship Service Conference (FSC) as a vehicle for its decision-making and communication.
- 4.2 All decisions affecting the fellowship as a whole shall originate from the Home Groups and be voted upon by their Group Conscience.
- 4.3 Boards and committees may be created by the Home Groups and will be directly accountable to the Home Groups.
- 4.4 All motions that are on the agenda for the first time need a 100% Yes vote to be approved. The second time a motion comes up, an 80% Yes vote will have the motion approved.

Article V: Leadership and Trusted Servants

- 5.1 The Anonymi Foundation will have no governing body or authority.
- 5.2 Trusted servants may be appointed to support the functioning of the FSC and service committees, but they do not govern.
- 5.3 Leadership is exercised through service and spiritual example, not authority.

Article VI: Financial Policy

- 6.1 The Anonymi Foundation shall not collect contributions directly from members. Contributions occur at the Home Group level.
- 6.2 The Anonymi Foundation shall hold no central treasury on behalf of the fellowship and shall not solicit or accept outside contributions.

Article VII: Literature Policy

- 7.1 Literature development and distribution should be done by addicts, for addicts, at cost, without profit, and with open participation.
- 7.2 This participatory service structure is a reflection of the fellowship's spiritual principles.
- 7.3 Autonomy, cooperation, and non-dictation are key to unity and service.

Article VIII: Copyright and Trademark Stewardship

- 8.1 The Anonymi Foundation serves as the legal arm responsible for filing copyrights and trademarks on behalf of the fellowship, both in the United States and internationally.
- 8.2 In the event of a copyright or trademark violation, Home Groups may bring the issue to the attention of the Anonymi Foundation.
- 8.3 The Anonymi Foundation shall only take legal action on such matters with the direction and approval of the Home Groups.
- 8.4 This structure ensures that the Anonymi Foundation acts solely as a steward and not as a governing authority.

Article IX: Non-Affiliation

- 9.1 The Anonymi Foundation shall not endorse, finance, or affiliate with any outside organization, enterprise, or facility.
- 9.2 The name "Anonymi Foundation" shall never be used to promote any cause, product, or political viewpoint.

Article X: Nonprofessional Nature of Service

- 10.1 The Anonymi Foundation shall remain forever nonprofessional in accordance with Tradition Eight of Narcotics Anonymous.
- 10.2 While the Anonymi Foundation may employ special workers for administrative tasks if needed, no member shall be paid for their service in carrying the message.
- 10.3 All trusted servants serve in a voluntary capacity and do not act in a professional role related to recovery.
- 10.4 This ensures the preservation of spiritual integrity and avoids the commercialization of service.

Article XI: External Neutrality

11.1 The Anonymi Foundation shall have no opinion on outside issues and shall not be drawn into public controversy.

11.2 The Anonymi Foundation’s focus shall remain entirely on recovery from addiction as guided by the Twelve Traditions.

Article XII: Amendments

12.1 Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any Home Group.

12.2 Proposed amendments must be submitted to the FSC and distributed to all Home Groups for conscience-based voting.

12.3 Amendments require the support of two-thirds of responding Home Groups to be adopted, except during the first year, in which case 100% unanimity is required.

Article XIII: Dissolution

13.1 In the event of dissolution, any spiritual materials, archives, or resources shall be entrusted to active Home Groups or an agreed-upon spiritual custodian.

13.2 No assets shall be distributed to any individual or outside organization.

End of Bylaws

These bylaws are intended as a living expression of spiritual principles, to be upheld in humility and mutual respect among the Home Groups of the Anonymi Foundation.

3. 501(c)(3) vs. 501(c)(7) Comparison

501(c)(3) vs. 501(c)(7) Comparison

This document compares the features of 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(7) nonprofit statuses to help organizations like Anonymi Foundation determine the most appropriate classification.

Feature	501(c)(3) – Charitable Organization	501(c)(7) – Social/Recreational Club
Primary Purpose	Charitable, educational, religious, scientific, literary	Social, recreational, or pleasure-based activities
Target Audience	General public or underserved populations	Exclusive group of members
Membership Requirement	Not required	Required; must have defined, limited membership
Tax-Exempt Status	Yes	Yes
Are Donations Tax-Deductible?	Yes – to the donor	No – not tax-deductible
Eligible for Public/Private Grants?	Yes	Rarely eligible
Revenue Sources Allowed	Donations, grants, program income, limited unrelated income	Primarily membership dues; limited nonmember income
Commercial/Business	Very limited; must support	Strongly restricted; cannot

Activity	mission	operate as a commercial business
Political Activity	Strictly limited (no endorsements or campaigning)	Limited; must not be a political group
Use of Funds	Must serve public good	Must benefit members only
Required IRS Filing	Form 1023 (or 1023-EZ); Annual Form 990	Form 1024; Annual Form 990 or 990-EZ
Examples	Schools, charities, humanitarian orgs, churches	Golf clubs, social societies, private online communities
Best For	Public service or philanthropic missions	Private member bonding, networking, or hobby groups